

## Quino Checkerspot Survey Protocol Questions and Answers

Q<sub>1</sub>: In 1999 we conducted an adult quino checkerspot butterfly (quino) survey of property in San Diego County. The results of this survey were negative with no adult quino detected on the property. The project is within the year 2000 Survey Area 1 and no construction has occurred. Is an adult quino survey required this year?

A<sub>1</sub>: We recommend that site assessments be conducted during the survey season immediately preceding ground-disturbing activities for all projects located within Survey Areas 1 and 3. If the assessment indicates the site is comprised solely of ~~excluded areas~~ (see protocol), surveys for butterflies (adults) are not needed. If the site contains non-excluded areas, butterfly surveys are recommended for those portions of the site. In other words, sites within Survey Areas 1 and 3 should be assessed in 2000 if ground-disturbing activities are expected to occur before the start of the 2001 quino survey season, regardless of negative surveys in previous years.

Q<sub>2</sub>: I already had my property surveyed for quino last year. According to this year's map my property is in Survey Area 2. I want to start construction activities this year. Do I need to have more surveys done first?

A<sub>2</sub>: The answer to this question depends on what type of survey activities you had performed last year. If you had protocol butterfly surveys conducted over the **entire** property during the **entire** survey season in Survey Areas 2, 4, 5, or 6 and did not find quino, then additional site assessments or butterfly surveys are not recommended.

However, if only a habitat assessment was conducted last year, and no adult surveys, we recommend that a site assessment be conducted this year according to the year 2000 protocol. A second scenario is if butterfly surveys were conducted on only a portion of your property. Under these circumstances, we recommend that a site assessment be conducted on all unsurveyed areas. In either case, the need for butterfly surveys will be determined by the results of the site assessment.

Q<sub>3</sub>: If a survey with negative results was conducted in Survey Areas 1 or 3 in 1999, is an additional survey needed if ground-disturbing activities are scheduled to occur after late February/early March 2000?

A<sub>3</sub>: We recommend that site assessments be conducted during the survey season immediately preceding ground-disturbing activities for all projects located within Survey Areas 1 and 3. If the assessment indicates the site is comprised solely of ~~excluded areas~~ (see protocol), surveys for butterflies (adults) are not needed. If the site contains non-excluded areas, butterfly surveys are recommended for those portions of the site. In other words, sites within Survey Areas 1 and 3 should be assessed in 2000 if ground-disturbing activities are expected to occur before the start of the 2001 quino survey season, regardless of negative surveys in previous years.

Q<sub>4</sub>: At the meeting in November, we were shown a map depicting historic and recent locations for the quino checkerspot butterfly. At that time I requested one of these maps, but they were in limited supply. Are these maps still available?

A<sub>4</sub>: The maps displayed at the workshop (areas of recent quino documentation) are now available on our web page, and may be viewed at [www.r1.fws.gov/text/quino.html](http://www.r1.fws.gov/text/quino.html).

Q<sub>5</sub>: The City instructed me to contact the Fish and Wildlife Service for a "stamp" that clears me of any quino restrictions. How can I get a clearance for listed species on the property I intend to purchase?

A<sub>5</sub>: We do not issue stamps for quino or other threatened or endangered species. We recommend that you have a biologist do a general habitat assessment to determine if any federally listed species may occur onsite and, if warranted, conduct focused surveys. A list of biologists can be obtained from either the City or County within which the property is located. In the event that federally listed species are found on the property, incidental take authorization may be required prior to ground-disturbing activities. Please contact our office for information on how incidental take authorization can be obtained.

Q<sub>6</sub>: I have a question regarding the shelf life of surveys conducted in Survey Areas 2, 4, 5, or 6. Say that a site assessment (and butterfly survey, if indicated) is conducted in one of these four areas in 2000. Will it be valid for longer than just that year? That is, am I correct in assuming that unlike Survey Areas 1 and 3, the USFWS will not recommend additional studies during the season prior to grading in Survey Areas 2, 4, 5, and 6?

A<sub>6</sub>: Yes, with qualification. If quino are documented in Survey Areas 2, 4, 5, or 6 during 2000, we will likely recommend that project sites within a certain proximity (to be determined during the formulation of the 2001 survey protocol) of the new quino location be treated the same way as sites in Areas 1 and 3.

Q<sub>7</sub>: Is the Service requiring site assessments for quino outside of the survey areas shown on the 2000 quino map?

A<sub>7</sub>: If the site is located completely outside of the six survey areas, we are not recommending that site assessments or butterfly surveys be conducted.

Q<sub>8</sub>: What is the Service's position with respect to the continued validity of surveys done in 1999 that showed quino absent (negative surveys that were not identified as potential false negatives)?

A<sub>8</sub>: Please refer to Answers 1 and 2.

Q<sub>9</sub>: Could you please post a list of permitted biologists?

A<sub>9</sub>: You may obtain a list of biologists permitted for quino by contacting our office.

Q<sub>10</sub>: The protocol states that surveys will not be valid if temperature in the shade at ground level is less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit on a clear, sunny day or if temperature in the shade at ground level is less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit on an overcast or cloudy day. What about on a partly cloudy day?

A<sub>10</sub>: On a partly cloudy day, a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade at ground level is acceptable for conducting quino surveys.

Q<sub>11</sub>: I will be surveying for quino this year. How will I know when the survey season starts? Could you send me a notice?

A<sub>11</sub>: We hope to notify permitted biologists the exact date of the beginning of the survey season one to two weeks beforehand. We will post the date on our quino webpage and notify permitted biologists by phone and fax. We are currently monitoring quino reference locations to determine the start of the flight seasons.